



New Zealand
Historic Places Trust *Pouhere Taonga*

Avon Theatre

86-88 Worcester Street, CHRISTCHURCH



Avon Theatre. Photographed by Melanie Lovell-Smith 1/02/2002. Copyright NZ Historic Places Trust



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Registration Type

Historic Place Category 2

Register Number

3092

Date Registered

26-Nov-1981

Legal Description

Pt Lot 1 DP 10366

City/District Council

Christchurch City

Region

Summary

This Art Deco theatre was built in 1934. It was designed by L.E. Williams, a Wellington-based architect who specialised in cinemas. At the time of its opening the building was seen as the most lavish of J. C. Williamson's numerous picture theatres in New Zealand and the newspaper reports on its opening commented enthusiastically about the cinema's acoustics, chromium-plated balustrades and the lighting display. Built three years after the Napier earthquake, the Avon Theatre was constructed to meet new national building standards. Recently the interior of the former theatre has been significantly altered and it reopened as a sports bar.

The former Avon Theatre is significant as an early Art Deco building in Christchurch and as part of the history of New Zealand picture theatres.

Former Use

Civic facilities and recreation - Cinema/movie theatre

Construction Professionals

Williams, Llewellyn - Architect

Construction Dates

Original Construction: 1934 (circa)

Information Sources

Robert Jackson, 'The Cinema in Christchurch' (based on a 1977 display 'Film and New Zealand), Wellington, [1986]

Peter Shaw, A History of New Zealand Architecture, Auckland, 1997

Report Written By

Melanie Lovell-Smith

Report Completed

20-Aug-2001

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